

2019 Current Fiscal Year Report: Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Homeland Security

2. Fiscal Year

2019

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

3b. GSA Committee No.

688

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

04/11/2019

6. Expected Renewal Date

04/11/2021

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

46 USC 8108

13. Effective Date

12/18/2014

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open Meetings and Dates 0 17b. Closed Meetings and Dates 0 17c. Partially Closed Meetings and Dates 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total Meetings and Dates 0

No Meetings

Current FY Next FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants

\$0.00 \$0.00

18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)

\$0.00 \$0.00

18d. Total

\$0.00 \$0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

MERPAC makes recommendations that influence the development of Coast Guard regulations and policies affecting personnel in the US Merchant Marine, including but not limited to: training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards. The Committee provides valuable advice to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and Commandant, USCG to assist the U.S. in formulating and presenting its positions to the International Maritime Organization on maritime matters. Specifically, MERPAC continues its work in support of the Coast Guard's efforts to bring the United States into full compliance with the 2010 amendments to the International Convention for Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW). In doing so, the Committee has continued to provide recommendations regarding methodologies for determining mariner competency which are valuable in helping formulate upcoming regulatory projects and guidance documents to support regulations. MERPAC also developed examples of model performance standards for in excess of fifteen areas of knowledge and proficiency in Table A of STCW giving priorities to those tasks best assessed aboard ship. The Committee continues its work on the utilization of military sea service in obtaining STCW certificates and mariner license and document reorganization.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee membership is mandated by statute and consists of not more than nineteen (19) members who are appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. To assure a balanced representation, members are appointed, insofar as practicable, from the following groups and in the following numbers:

- Nine United States citizens with active licenses or certificates issued under chapter 71 or merchant mariner documents issued under chapter 73, including: (1) Three deck officers who represent the viewpoint of merchant marine deck officers, of whom: Two shall be licensed for oceans any gross tons; one shall be licensed for inland or river routes with a limited or unlimited tonnage; two shall have a master's license or a master of towing vessels license; one shall have significant tanker experience; and, to the extent practicable, one shall represent the viewpoint of labor and another shall represent a management perspective; (2) Three engineering officers who represent the viewpoint of merchant marine engineering officers, of whom: Two shall be licensed as chief engineer any horsepower; one shall be licensed as either a limited chief engineer or a designated duty engineer; and, to the extent practicable, one shall represent a labor viewpoint and another shall represent a management perspective; (3) Two unlicensed seamen, of whom: One shall represent the viewpoint of able bodied seamen; and another shall

represent the viewpoint of qualified members of the engine department; and, (4) One pilot who represents the viewpoint of Merchant Marine pilots;b. Six marine educators, including: (1) Two who represent the viewpoint of State maritime academies and are jointly recommended by such State maritime academies; (2) One who represents either the viewpoint of the State maritime academies or the United States Merchant Marine Academy; and (3) Three marine educators who represent the viewpoint of other maritime training institutions, one of whom shall represent the viewpoint of the small vessel industry;c. Two individuals who represent the viewpoint of shipping companies employed in ship operation management; and,d. Two members who are drawn from the general public.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

MERPAC usually meets twice annually, and work groups frequently meet between the semi-annual meetings. MERPAC is composed of experts in their particular segment of the merchant marine industry, and the Committee makes recommendations that influence the development of Coast Guard regulations and policies affecting personnel in the US Merchant Marine, including but not limited to: training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards. The Committee provides valuable advice to the Commandant,USCG to assist the U.S. in formulating and presenting its positions to the International Maritime Organization on maritime matters. MERPAC has significantly facilitated the US Coast Guard's implementation of the 2010 Amendments to the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification & Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) with harmonization of ongoing U.S. regulations. This harmonization has required an extensive revision of U.S. licensing and documentation regulations. The US Coast Guard's effectiveness in these activities is greatly improved with direct access to the expertise and advice that is currently represented on this advisory Committee.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

This diverse Committee provides focused and well thought-out recommendations to relevant issues. It is very responsive to the US Coast Guard's need for recommendations on short turn-around issues. The unique industry perspective provided by this Committee facilitates the US Coast Guard's efforts. This information would otherwise have to be drawn from the broad population involved in merchant vessel personnel matters. There is no other current entity which can provide the level of technical expertise and experience that is afforded by this advisory panel.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A.

21. Remarks

Until December 18, 2014, Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) performed as a discretionary committee. As part of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, PL-113S2444, Section 310, this committee became statutory with minor change from its discretionary authorization. The existing and current charter was amended and filed with Congress on 17 January 2017. Its expiration date is 17 January 2019.

Designated Federal Officer

Mayte Medina Chief, Merchant Marine Credentialing

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Anderson, Patrick	06/20/2016	06/01/2019	Engineering Officer, Limited Chief Engineer	Representative Member
Brown, Christopher	03/05/2018	03/05/2021	Maritime Pilot	Representative Member
Douglas, Ira	09/17/2013	06/01/2019	Crowley Maritime	Representative Member
Eriksson, Berit	03/05/2018	03/05/2021	Unlicensed Deck Rating	Representative Member
Fink, Ernest	06/20/2016	06/01/2019	Marine Educators, State Academies Subcommittee Co-Chair "Course Approvals"	Representative Member
Fontenot, John	03/05/2018	03/05/2021	Shipping Company	Representative Member
Mitchell, Henry	03/05/2018	03/05/2021	Licensed Engineer	Representative Member
Muth, William	03/05/2018	03/05/2021	Marine Educator - Non Academy	Representative Member
Pannell, Gerard	03/05/2018	03/05/2021	Marine Educator - Non Academy	Representative Member
Poplawski, Anthony	09/17/2013	06/01/2019	President - Marine Fireman's Union	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 10

Narrative Description

The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) makes recommendations to the Commandant of the US Coast Guard which influence the development of Coast Guard regulations and policy guidance affecting personnel in the US Merchant Marine, including but not limited to: training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards. The Committee provides valuable advice to the Commandant of the US Coast Guard to assist the U.S. in formulating and presenting its positions to the International Maritime Organization on maritime matters. Specifically, MERPAC continues its work in support of the US Coast Guard's efforts to bring the United States into full compliance with the 1995 amendments to the International Convention for

Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW). In doing so, the Committee has provided recommendations regarding methodologies for determining mariner competency which are valuable in helping formulate upcoming regulatory projects and guidance documents.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Trust in government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Advance in scientific research | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Over \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cost Savings Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

931

Number of Recommendations Comments

The number of recommendations made by MERPAC is based upon the number of individual recommendations made within each assigned task. In FY 2018 MERPAC made 86 recommendations.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

81%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

19%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

While much of MERPAC's output is used to improve regulatory and policy promulgation, some recommendations are not enforceable or outside the scope of the regulatory or policy development. What can be used is used, but what is not is retained in the event that a future regulatory or policy project may be able to use it.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

We report back to the Committee on the resolution of their recommendations. All recommendations are included in the meeting minutes.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO



Online Agency Web Site



Online Committee Web Site



Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other

**Access Comments**

N/A